UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/938
S/1996/302
18 April 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 140
UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 17 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of April 1996, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement concerning the crisis between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and certain Western States issued by the Joint Meeting of the Ministerial Committee of Seven of the League of Arab States and the Ministerial Committee of Five of the Organization of African Unity, held on Friday, 11 April 1996, at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in Cairo.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 140, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Chairman of the Arab Group

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ANNEX

Statement issued on Friday, 11 April 1996, by the Joint Meeting of the Ministerial Committee of Seven of the League of Arab States and the Ministerial Committee of Five of the Organization of African Unity responsible for dealing with the crisis between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and certain Western States

On the evening of 11 April 1996, the Ministerial Committee of Seven of the League of Arab States and the Ministerial Committee of Five of the Organization of African Unity responsible for dealing with the Lockerbie crisis held a joint meeting at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in Cairo.

Having considered the latest developments related to the crisis, and having heard details from the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity concerning the efforts that the two organizations have made to bring about a peaceful and just solution to this crisis,

Having heard a statement by the head of the delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya detailing the proposals and initiatives put forward by his country in response to the obligations relating to the implementation of Security Council resolution 731 (1992),

The members of the two Committees:

- Reaffirm the resolutions adopted by the League of Arab States and the Organization of African Unity expressing solidarity with the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and support for its efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis in the context of respect for the principles of international law and for Libyan national sovereignty;

- Express their deep concern about the human losses and material damage suffered by the Libyan people and the peoples of neighbouring States as a result of the coercive measures imposed against Libya pursuant to Security Council resolutions 748 (1992) and 883 (1993);

- Affirm in this regard the dangers resulting from the insistence of the Western countries concerned on the continued imposition of sanctions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and the threats that the continuation of the crisis could pose to regional and international peace and security;

- Express their appreciation to the majority of the world's States for their solidarity with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in this crisis, referring in this regard to paragraph 163 of the final document issued by the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Colombia on 20 October 1995;

- Call upon the three Western countries concerned to show flexibility and respond positively to the Libyan position and the efforts and initiatives calling for dialogue and negotiation with a view to reaching a peaceful solution of the crisis in accordance with Article 33 of Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, which calls for the settlement of disputes by negotiation, mediation and judicial settlement.

- Reaffirm the constructive nature of the proposal put forward in resolution 5373 adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States on 27 March 1994 at its one-hundred and first ordinary session, that the two suspects should be judged equitably by the Scottish judges in conformity with Scottish law, at the seat of the International Court of Justice at The Hague;

- Urge the Security Council to use this practical proposal as a basis for resolving the crisis and to reconsider its resolutions 731 (1992), 748 (1992) and 883 (1993) with a view to lifting the sanctions imposed against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;

- Assign to the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity responsibility for coordinating their joint efforts with the States concerned, States members of the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with the plan of action for dealing with the situation, in order to prevent any escalation of the crisis and to reach a peaceful and just settlement acceptable to all the parties concerned.